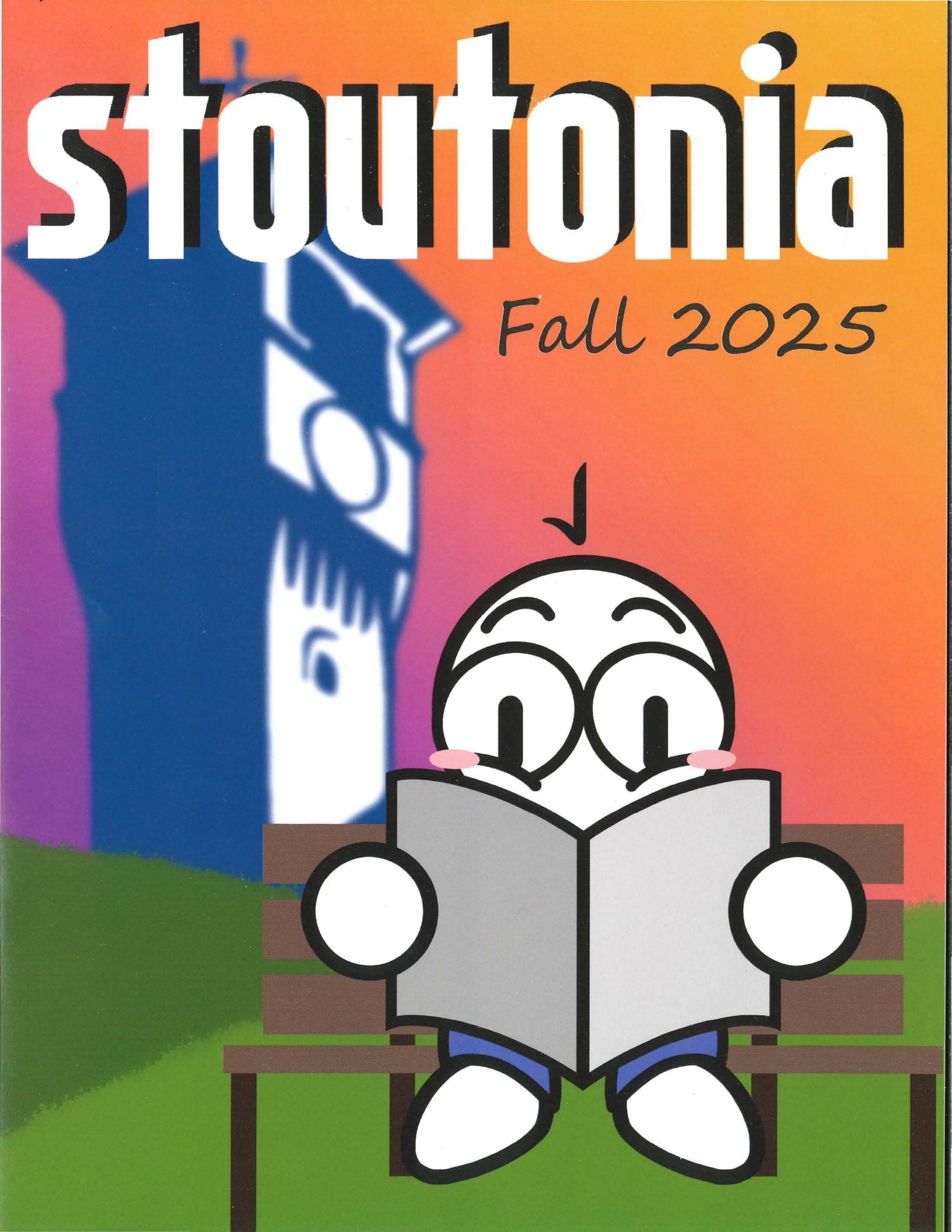
stoutonia

Fall 2025



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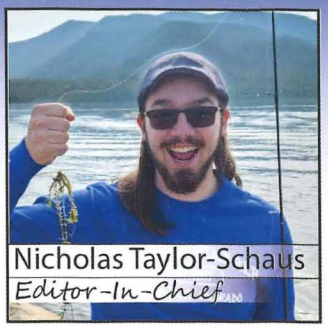
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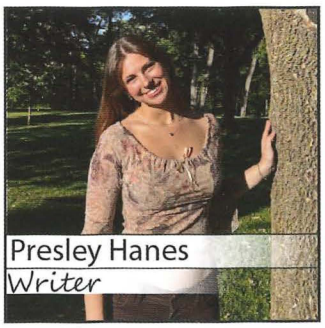
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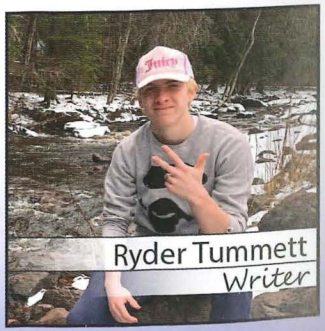
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Blue Devil Word Search

M E M O R I E S L Y D P O S K
N D C Z G T O T I U I I F I Z
B O O L N X Z U S A N L R H L
Z R J H Y P N D T T I E I O L
U M U P H R P E U H N J E G Q
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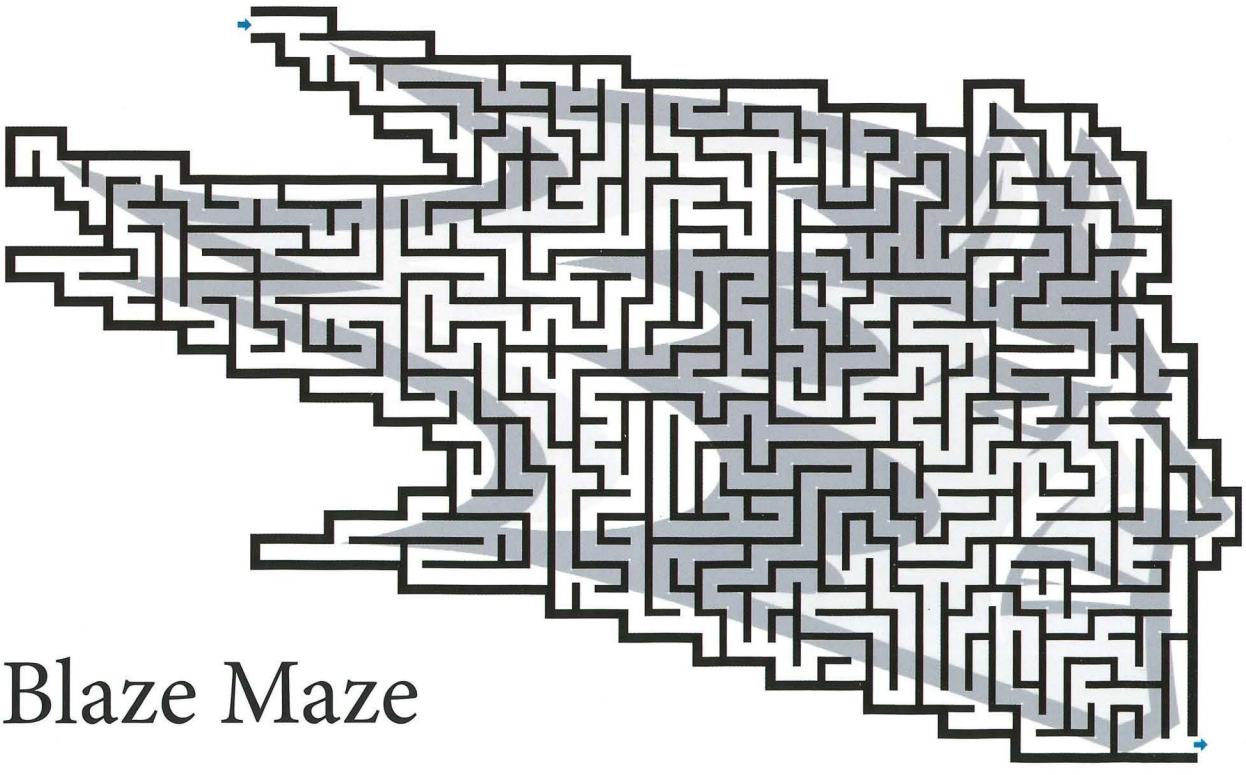
S E R W F S F J P I E B O X X

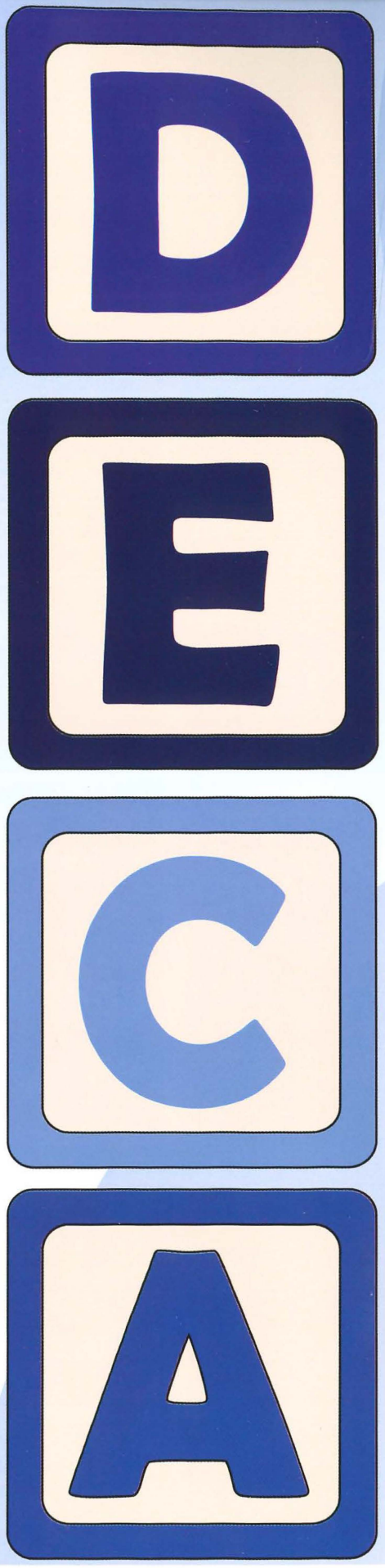
Student Center
Harvey Hall
Stoutonia
Dorm Life
Study
Price Commons
Dining Hall
Athletics
UWStout
Roommates
Student News
Blue Devils
Friends
Memories
Blaze



Blaze Maze

Orgs at Stout:

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)



UW-Stout prides itself on an abundance of organizations for students of all majors and goals. The newest edition to the repertoire, Stout's own chapter of DECA, is a prime example of the tenacity that Stout's students bring to the table. DECA, which stands for the Distributive Education Clubs of America, is an organization focused on building business and problem-solving skills. DECA teaches members to think on their feet to solve hard scenarios in a limited time.

Though its roots lead back to business major-focused students over the years it has become a hub for all those interested in building universal skills for almost any career path. Rocklyn Robey, co-founder and vice president of Stout's DECA team puts it as, "[A] Student organization that prepares young professionals through many different careers focuses for real world relations by building experience and connections. Through competitive events, leadership conferences, and real-world simulations". As a long-time DECA member throughout school, she describes the experience as a valuable tool for her development in professional life as it, "empowers students to take initiative and pursue excellence…DECA is an amazing resource for those who are willing and interested in starting their professional practice while they are still in college in a welcoming and friendly environment". Though it is a grassroots organization at Stout, the tenacity of its members like Rocklyn has given the Stout chapter of DECA a strong foundation. Already in the process of full registration, this is a perfect time for students with a passion for personal growth to get in on the ground floor and help build up DECA from the start.

Co-President and freshman Jillian Coleman has been involved in the program since her senior year of high school and has a variety of experience in competition for DECA. In her words on competition days, "you will get a case study which is a small packet. The packet contains a problem within the company as well as your challenge regarding the problem. You will get 30 minutes to read the case study as well as come up with a solution to solve the problem. Afterwards you pitch your solution to the judges. During your pitch you want to hit the "targets" that are written into the case study while pitching your solution. Afterwards they grade your solution, answers, and responses on a point scale." Competitions happen in late Fall/Spring and in the off-time, members will be planning for competitions, socializing at meetings and enjoying group events like potlucks. It is truly an invaluable resource to be able to think on your feet and those involved with DECA work hard to earn that ability, while also building a strong and fun community.

The UW-Stout chapter of this program not only has two passionate presidents but also many members with the same amount of vehemence for the program. Gavin Brueggeman, a freshman at Stout, has been involved in DECA for 8 years now. He is the vice president of Leadership and Competition for the Stout chapter and heavily involved with the inner workings of competition prep. He says, "If you're unfamiliar with DECA or unsure of what it's all about, this is for you…Out of all my high school experiences, DECA stands out as one of the most impactful—filled with unforgettable moments and meaningful connections…DECA offers something for everyone—regardless of your major or interests. I can confidently say: there's a place for you in DECA."

"DECA was one of my more valuable experiences in high school. It helped me learn how to communicate in a professional manner and how to organize my ideas to effectively present them."
- Louie Gelperin

It's no secret that any organization is only as strong as the members allow it to be, and the UW-Stout chapter of DECA has the right people to make the program successful. A former member, Louie Gelperin, who served a role all 4 years of high school says, "DECA was one of my more valuable experiences in high school. It helped me learn how to communicate in a professional manner and how to organize my ideas to effectively present them." From first years beginning their college experience to those upperclassmen who are beginning their transition into the working world, DECA has something to offer. If you want to develop lifelong skills and connections while also integrating yourself into a supportive community of peers, DECA is for you.

Photo Credit: Rocklyn

Bake Yourself at Home: The Dining Hall's Homemade Treats

With the start of the 2025 school year, there are many returning students to Stout's campus, as well as tons of new faces. Whether this is your first fall in Menomonie or you've been here your whole life, the colder season approaching can stir up some nostalgic or homesick feelings. Luckily, Stout has a staff of friends in the kitchen to help you feel more at home!

Stacy Lauterbach is the head baker in the Memorial Student Center and has been an employee at Stout for 6 years. Before starting her time here, she had spent her entire adult life working in the g at 2:45 a.m. to ensure her arrival at Stout by 4:00 a.m. Once she's in the building, she unlocks all the coolers and fires up the ovens to start her busy day in the kitchen. With the help of student employees, she's able to bake cookies, muffins, and other sweets to stock throughout Brew Devils, the Mini Mart, and any other place where people can purchase food in the MSC. Aside from baking the treats found in the dining areas, Stacy is also responsible for catering events. With her hands full, she's able to keep her head above water with her passion for baking, along with the help she receives from her student employees.

One senior here reflected on her time of employment through Stout's food services and shared her experiences. During her freshman year, she was an employee of the Memorial Student Center, where she, along with the other students employed there, would cycle through working the different dining locations, such as the Fireside Café and Brew Devils. She gave great appreciation to Stacy and how she is able to create a productive environment while also keeping it

"I love seeing students who have never baked or cooked or even had a job before learning a new skill, and then I also learn things from them, which is awesome."
- Stacy Lauterbach, MSC Head Baker.

light and fun. "Working in the bakery was definitely the most fun area to be scheduled in," she told me. This senior also informed me of the Search Program, which is a program through Stout in which they will employ those who may need extra hands-on training in the work field. Members of this program are often employed through the food services, and Stacy herself has worked with six students in this program. The senior I spoke with was quick to express how wonderful Stacy is with the Search Program members, and with Stacy's excitement for baking and her gentle cadence, this is not surprising at all. When I asked Stacy about her time with these members, she said, "They've been a joy! Some of them are really quiet and in their shell, and then you just see them flourish, and it's just awesome."

While the recipes Stacy uses belong to Stout, she has taken it upon herself to alter some of the recipes slightly for a more aesthetic appearance. "Our sugar cookie recipe, when I first came here, used to be sprinkles and white sugar. And I thought, 'why aren't we doing Stout colors?'" Stacy shared with me

Photo Credit: Presley Hanes

when I asked what tweaks she's made. "I love dressing things up because the more appealing it is, the more appealing it's going to be to make and for our customers to eat." Stacy has plenty of festive sprinkles that you'll notice throughout the year, as they will coordinate with the season. It's thoughtful details such as this that create a fun energy within the bakery.

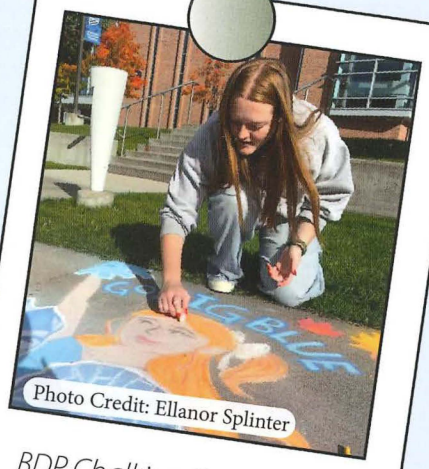
With all the happiness I felt radiating off Stacy, I could tell she truly loves what she does for Stout. "I love to bake. Even after I'm done here, I will go home and bake or cook again, I say I'm a baking fanatic!" Stacy began to tell me when I asked what her favorite part of her job was. "I love seeing students who have never baked or cooked or even had a job before learning a new skill, and then I also learn things from them, which is awesome. I never in a million years thought I'd have a baking job at a campus!"

After speaking with Stacy, I wanted to find out how I, along with other students, can show gratitude for all the hard work she does for us. I learned that she will be starting a cottage bakery out of her home during the summer seasons, since she is only at Stout through the school year. While I hope to support her business, I also got confirmation that Stacy is here to stay! "I hope to be at Stout for many, many years, I love what I do," Stacy reassured me.

Before you reach for a generic cookie when you're looking for a midday pick-me-up, consider supporting Stacy, along with all the other hard workers who make Stout homier. And if you see Stacy, be sure to thank her for all the love she's given us.

Way Stout West
2025 Homecoming Highlights!

By: Grace Johnson
November 5, 2025



BDP Chalking Competition

BDP 1st Place Banner

BDP 1st Place Lip Sync Team

From October 20th-26th, UW-Stout's Blue Devils celebrated Homecoming! Student organizations, sports teams, and clubs across campus all came together to celebrate Blue Devil Pride and Spirit!

Blue Devil Productions (BDP) hosted many fun themed events throughout the week. Some of these included a Homecoming Sidewalk Chalking Contest, Glow in the Dark Bingo, Soap Box Derby Race and more! Amidst all the fun, BDP also hosted a weeklong Food Drive Battle bringing in items for the Stout Student Food Pantry to help support students across campus.

The 2025 Banner Contest, hosted by BDP and the Involvement Center invited teams and student organizations to paint a banner to be hung in the MSC during Homecoming week! Banners ranged from Blaze chasing a sunset on a horse to A western Uncle Sam from the Stout Student Association "Wanting YOU to have fun this Homecoming!" The first-place banner went to the design from Gamma Sigma Sigma and Ducks Unlimited!

Blue Devil Productions hosted a Homecoming Lip Sync Battle on October 22nd. Students and staff members were invited to join in with a group or as a soloist to compete! Student teams including Alpha Phi & Phi Sigma Phi, Blue Devil Book Club, the International Stout laws, Gamma Sigma Sigma and Ducks Unlimited, the ETC Muppets, Delta Zeta & Men's Lacrosse, and The Spirit Teams.

Teams all competed to claim the title as Lip Sync Battle winners with a grand prize of 10 free Papa John's Pizzas. One of the competitors from the Spirit Team, Victoria Higgins said, "The atmosphere was so supportive! Sophia Moore's performance was so fun and engaging!" Higgins also loved the host performance from Megan the Man Eater. The crowd was out of their chairs and cheering. Energy in the room was so high the whole event! Congratulations to the top placing teams: 3rd place to Sophia Moore, 2nd place to Gamma Sigma Sigma and Ducks Unlimited, and 1st place to the Stout Dance and Cheer Spirit Team!

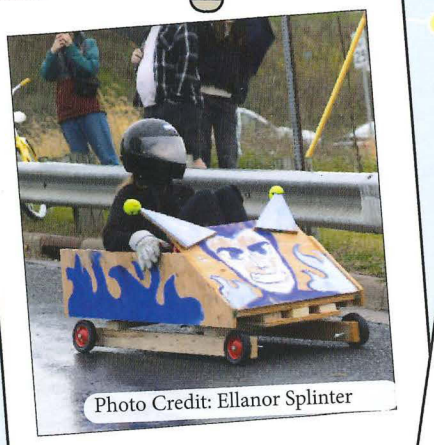


Photo Credit: Ellanor Splinter

SoapBox Derby Race

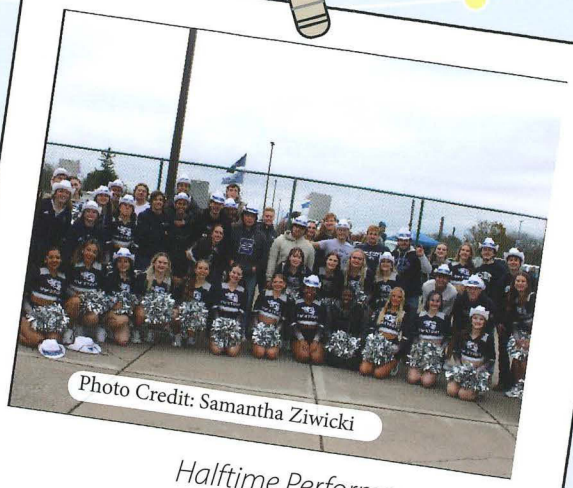


Photo Credit: Samantha Ziwicki

Halftime Performers

Photo Credit: Samantha Ziwicki

Game Day Sidelines

Were you able to make it to the BDP Hoedown Throwdown Dance? Friday night in the Memorial Student Center Great Hall, BDP hosted a Western Homecoming Dance! Victoria Higgins, one of the attendees, said the dance floor had high energy, good lighting, and lots of country music. Some students dressed up for the event and the photobooth was super popular."

To finish up Homecoming week, Blue Devils Football reigned in a 42 to 22 victory over University Wisconsin Stevens Point at the Homecoming game. According to d3football.com, The UW-Stout Football team has remained in the Top 25 Division III teams for 23 consecutive weeks. Stout Football is preparing to face UW Lacrosse and UW Platteville in the coming weeks. Way to go Stout Football! You make us all Stout Proud!

Special honorary recognitions to alumni athletic teams dating all the way back to the Class of 1965 Football were recognized on the field of Halftime. Stout Alumni from across the country returned to Don and Nona's to meet up with former teammates and celebrate the Blue Devil Pride and Spirit still connecting us all decades later.

There were so many unique and fun events this homecoming week. Let's hear from some Blue Devils what their favorite Homecoming memories were!

"The Guy/Girl Halftime Dance was so much fun. It was super involving, and the guys did a great job learning and performing with us on the field."
–Sophomore, Anonymous Student.

"My favorite Homecoming memory was at the football game! It was a great Blue Devil win, and I loved performing the Touch–Down dance many times!"
–Freshman, Blue Devils Dance Team Dancer, Taylor Moulton.

Photo Credit: Evan Piorkowski

Blaze at Homecoming

A look inside UW-Stout's million-dollar esports arena

Where to watch, uses for the space, and how to join.

By: Caleb Bare
November 10, 2025

ESPORTS

Continuing with its substantial gaming presence, UW-Stout has seen the recent addition of an esports arena located in the Robert S. Swanson Library! Costing around one million dollars, the arena boasts 34 high-end gaming PCs each with an accompanying monitor, along with several gaming consoles and TVs for both competitors and spectators alike.

Despite how recently it opened, the arena has already been used to host some events. Just recently the space was used for a Rocket League tournament called the Red Cedar Rumble! This event brought together eight different teams from different colleges to compete, with Stout's own team netting a close second place right behind the Carthage College Firebirds.

If you're interested in watching an event like this live (either online or in the arena), the Wisconsin Esports Conference Fall Championship LAN is coming up on December 6th and 7th!

The arena isn't just for playing games either, as within the arena is a broadcasting room and a room for commentators. The latter of which will eventually be available to students to rent by students as a study/meeting space! And, of course, with a broadcasting room comes broadcasts, so if you are interested in catching games from the comfort of your home (or dorm) you can check out the UW-Stout Esports Twitch channel at https://www.twitch.tv/stoutesports.

Stout has teams for games ranging from competitive shooters like Overwatch 2, Valorant, and Marvel Rivals, to the chaotic fun of Rocket League and Super Smash Brothers, so there's plenty of options to go check out.

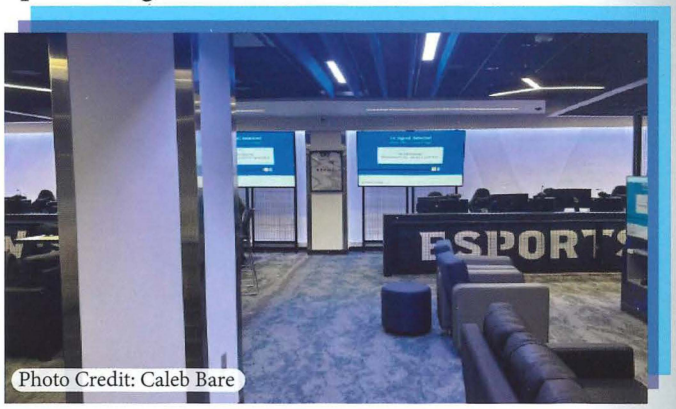


Photo Credit: Caleb Bare

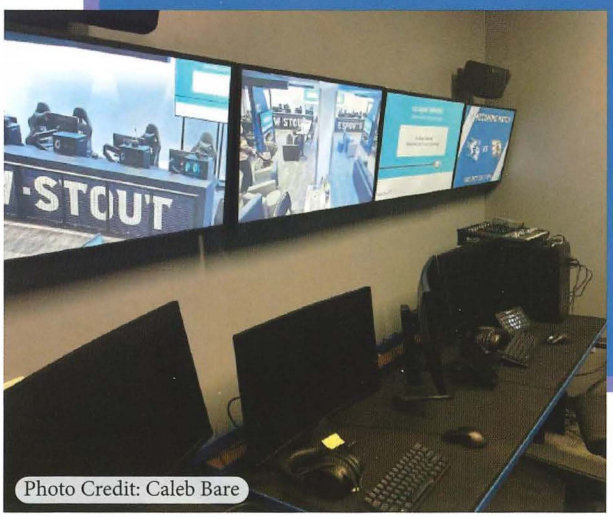


Photo Credit: Caleb Bare

Finally, if you are interested in competing yourself the best place to start, according to Stout esports head coach Arron Froelich, is with the Stout esports club. The club aims to provide an introduction to esports, so if you would like to dabble in esports be sure to check them out at https://connect.uwstout.edu/sec/home/.

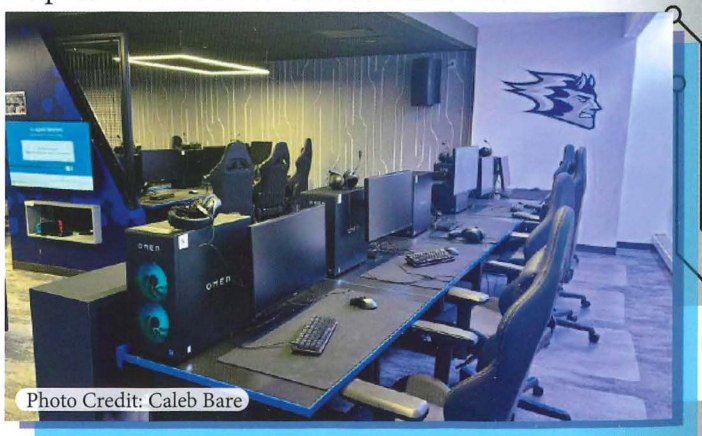


Photo Credit: Caleb Bare

3 Spooky Games Made By Students You Can Play For Free!

Caleb Bare
October 23, 2025

UW-Stout boasts a robust game development curriculum and with that comes games of course! Here's three student-made spooky games to get you in the Halloween spirit, and better yet, they're all free to play on Itch.io!

Dread Not is an atmospheric first-person asymmetrical puzzle game set in a damaged submarine running low on oxygen. Similar to the likes of the "We Were Here" franchise, each player is physically separated from each other and must rely on good communication to keep the submarine going while also navigating it back to the surface.

One player takes the role of the Pilot, confined to one room the Pilot must guide both the ship and the other player to safety. The other players as the Mechanic, moving from room to room working to repairing the submarine under the direction of the pilot. Teamwork is the only way to survive the hostile depths, making this a great game to play with a friend or partner to get into the spooky vibe!

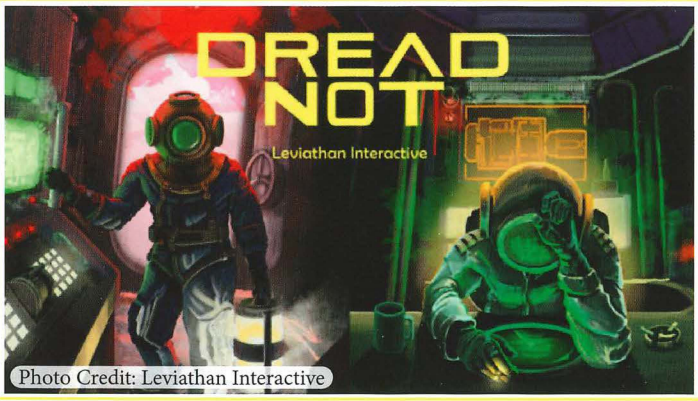


Photo Credit: Leviathan Interactive

Set in the titular Apartment 20, which itself is in limbo, Apartment 20 sees you assisting spirits by fixing their problems and solving mysteries to help them finally rest in peace. The game itself is a charming 3D platformer with detailed environments you get to explore as a little detective.

Apartment 20 is a lighthearted adventure perfect for fans of 3D platformers!

As you explore these environments, you'll meet charming ghosts which you can chat with to gather more information, progress through entertaining dialogue, and ultimately solve whatever problem they're having. With a lighthearted atmosphere.

Photo Credit: Rookery Studios

Described on its Itch.io page as a "rhythm-based boss-rush adventure", SunShredder boasts a unique blend of gameplay which, combined with a strong art direction, makes it a very engaging experience. You play as a young rockstar in a world that recently lost the sun. With the sun's sudden vanishing has also come monsters which of course must be taken down with your musical prowess.

Featuring an assortment of spooky bosses and an overall gloomy atmosphere (given the whole lack of a sun), SunShredder is both a compelling experience and one that's very fitting for getting into the spirit of the spooky month!

If you're looking for more games made by Stout students, be sure to check out the UW-Stout Itch page at https://uwstout.itch.io/ !

Photo Credit: Yearner Studios

Blue Devils Women's Rugby

By: Marley Gamrat
October 18, 2025

Across our campus we offer a multitude of sports, both competitive and intramural. Students can revive their adrenaline with competitive teams or use sports as an excuse to hang out with friends a few times a week. One of our sports on campus that should be talked about more is rugby. The women's rugby team thrives and plays off of their girlhood and closeness, as well as trust. The team was reinstated five years ago with small numbers and a lack of knowledge about the sport. Junior captain Becca Carroll shares how, "They only had four people on the team that year, so it was definitely a lot of learning…Recently we have a lot more people that know the game, and that's exciting because when the rookies come on, there's more than one person that knows how to explain everything."

The girls have been slowly but surely rebuilding their team and growing closer after each game and practice. A common theme among multiple girls I interviewed was the fact that the community is so close within rugby, and that in and of itself is enough to join the team. You don't need a bit of previous knowledge, just the willingness to learn and get dirty. "When I joined, I had no idea what rugby was, and I fell in love with it", says Senior Vai Ray. From speaking with the team, I learned the best part of watching the game is just the feeling you get seeing how much fun they have, and how while this may just be a game, they are there for each other, and they're always there to pick each other up.

If any of this sounded fun and something you'd be interested in, don't hesitate to reach out to the team and join!

"When I joined, I had no idea what rugby was, and I fell in love with it"
- Vai Ray.

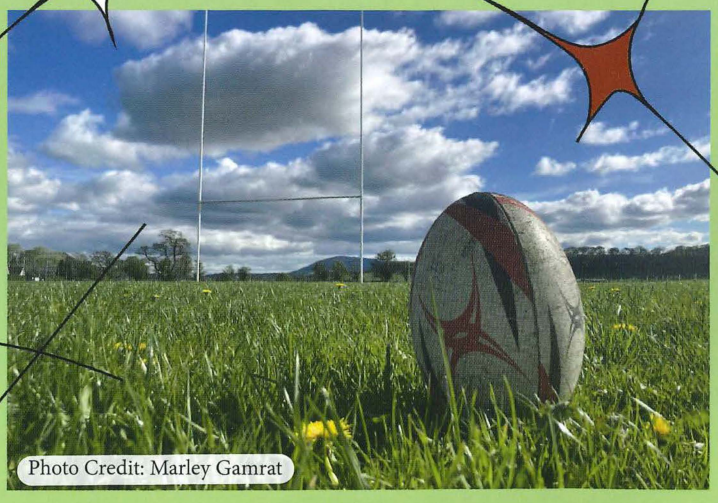


Photo Credit: Marley Gamrat

Beyond the Game:

How Stout student athletes step up to serve.

By: Brin Neumann
Date, 2025

The Stout Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) may be full of athletes, but they do more than just play sports. Not only do they deal in representing the sports teams at the university, but also in community and campus work as well. Their monthly meetings cover a variety of topics, like discussing what's happening on campus, how to engage the community in athletics, and volunteer opportunities.

Newly minted advisor Parker Huhn, a graduate from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in Exercise Sports Science, joined the UW Stout cross country and track team's staff earlier this year. Along with that role brought on his involvement for SAAC, after filling in for the previous advisor and coach, Abigail Fouts. "I thought [UW Stout] would be a program and athletic department that I feel I'd fit in and be able to contribute to," he says.

Huhn feels very passionate about student athletes, after being one himself. "I've always believed in the overall development of student athletes, in terms of them as people, them as leaders, them as students, and also as athletes," he says. He wants to provide student athletes with an experience that goes beyond sports and the classroom. "Figuring out how that experience within sports can enhance their academic experience as well as help develop the skills [these athletes] will use for the rest of their lives," he says.

Huhn does say that it's been a learning curve for him as well as newer members of the committee. "In terms of SAAC, one of the things that's been an adjustment is that I've been an assistant coach in all my roles so far as a coach. So being the SAAC advisor, I'm leading the meetings, I'm organizing the events, I'm coordinating with the student athletes to be able to make those connections and projects happen," he says.

SAAC Leadership Officer Liz Rohl said she loves that she gets to bring joy to the Menomonie area when bell ringing for the Salvation Army during the winter months. Rohl is heavily involved in overseeing the side operations of SAAC, such as their social media campaigns and mental health awareness for students and athletes.

Although these student-athletes are busy like any other college student, the committee gathers other student athletes to donate their time to help causes like local food pantries and the Salvation Army. Whether it's collecting cans or ringing bells, the athletes take the time to rally for the community and raise money to give it to charitable causes.

STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SAAC

GO BIG BLUE!

By: Grace Johnson
October 24, 2025

Photo Credit: Samantha Ziwicki

Your UW Stout Spirit Squad brought to you by the Stout Cheer and Dance Teams are ready to show you some Blue Devil SPIRIT!

The Blue Devils Dance Team is led by coaches Samantha Ziwicki and Catelyn Capozzi. They are composed of 30 Performance Team dancers, led by captains Grace Johnson and Chloe Onsgard, and are assisted by manager Ella Koepke.

You can find the Blue Devils Dance Team (BDDT), performing during Stout Gameday Pregame and Halftimes, and sharing the sidelines with the Cheer team to bring you Blue Devils Pride and Spirit!

Photo Credit: Reece Kupsky

"Being a Blue Devil Dancer has provided me with amazing friendships and opportunities to continue my dance career as a college athlete. I love performing with my friends, going to practices, and getting ready for Blue Devil Game Days"
– Ryannah Nelson
SAAC Representative

Gearing up for this competition season, Blue Devils' dancers are preparing to perform and compete at the Menomonie Holiday Classic, and the Eau Claire Fire Up Invitational this December. BDDT will also represent UW-Stout and travel to compete at the UDA Nationals competition in Orlando, Florida this January!

Head coach Samantha Ziwicki says, "The Blue Devils Dance Team is built on energy, teamwork, and school spirit. Every dancer brings their own strengths, and together we create something bigger than ourselves both on the sidelines and on the competition floor. We're especially excited to bring that energy to Homecoming and celebrate what it means to be a Blue Devil!"

Photo Credit: Samantha Ziwicki

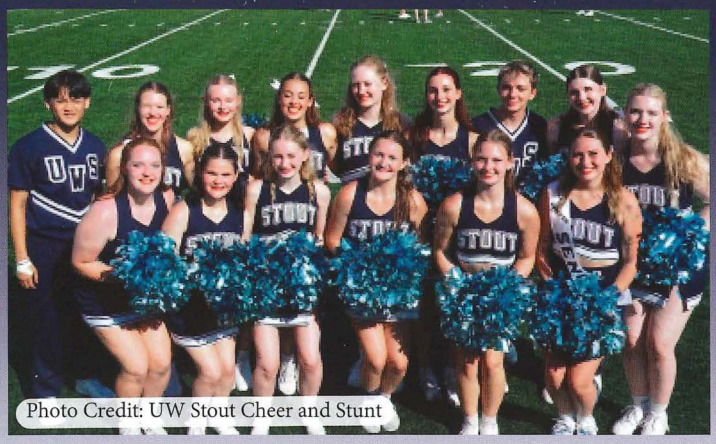


Photo Credit: UW Stout Cheer and Stunt

"It's hard to put into words just how much this program means to me, and the pride I have in the athletes and student leaders who make up our team. Their love and passion for UW-Stout and the Blue Devils are immeasurable, and having the opportunity to lead them is something I'm grateful for every day."
– Samantha Ziwicki
BDDT Head Coach

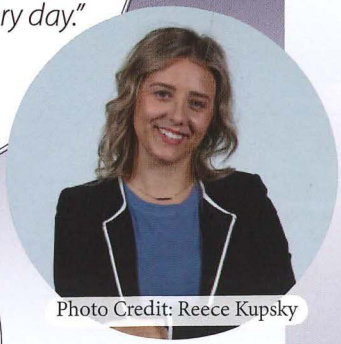


Photo Credit: Reece Kupsky

Our Cheer Team led by captains Ellanor Splinter, Cece Wallace and Audrey Arnoldussen, have led 17 Cheer members into a firecracker season! The Cheer Team always supports Blue Devil fans and athletes at Football and Basketball games. Cheer is also gearing up for an exciting competition season later this fall!

"The energy and commitment from everyone have been incredible, and I'm excited to see how we continue to develop as the year goes on!"

– Ellanor Splinter
Cheer Captain

Photo Credit: Reece Kupsky

Cheer Captain Ellanor says, "This season has been such a fun and meaningful one for our team! We're a close-knit group of 17 athletes who truly love what we do and the school we represent. My personal goal as captain has been to uplift and support my teammates however I can — they're such an amazing group, and I'm so proud of how much we've grown together."

UW-Stout Football has also had a successful season so far! With four Blue Devil WINS this season, including two WIAC victories against UW-Eau Claire and UW-Oshkosh the Football Team is Fired Up! October 25th our team faces UW-Stevens Point so bring your Blue Devil Spirit, knock the dust from your boots, and get rowdy with the Cheer and Dance teams supporting Stout Football this Homecoming!

"Way Stout West" the 2025 Homecoming theme brings you never before seen performances and appearances from your Blue Devil Spirit Squad! As Homecoming gets closer mark you calendars for the 2025 Stout Homecoming Parade Saturday October 25th at 11:00 on campus! Find the Spirit Squad also in the Game Day Tailgate lot at 12:00 p.m. and make sure you claim your seat in the bleachers for Kickoff at 1:05 p.m.!

Interested in joining these teams or getting involved? Reach out to BDDT Coach Samantha Ziwicki at:
ziwickis@uwstout.edu
and the Cheer Team at: cheer@stout.edu

Check out their Instagrams for Gameday Content, Season Updates, and Recruitment Information!

@stoutdance @stoutcheerandstunt

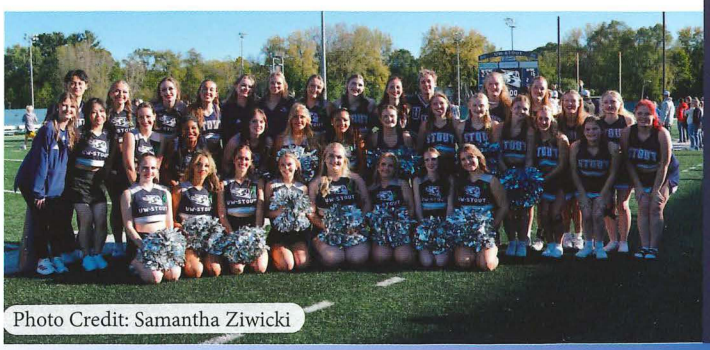


Photo Credit: Samantha Ziwicki

Orgs at Stout: Yeti Ultimate

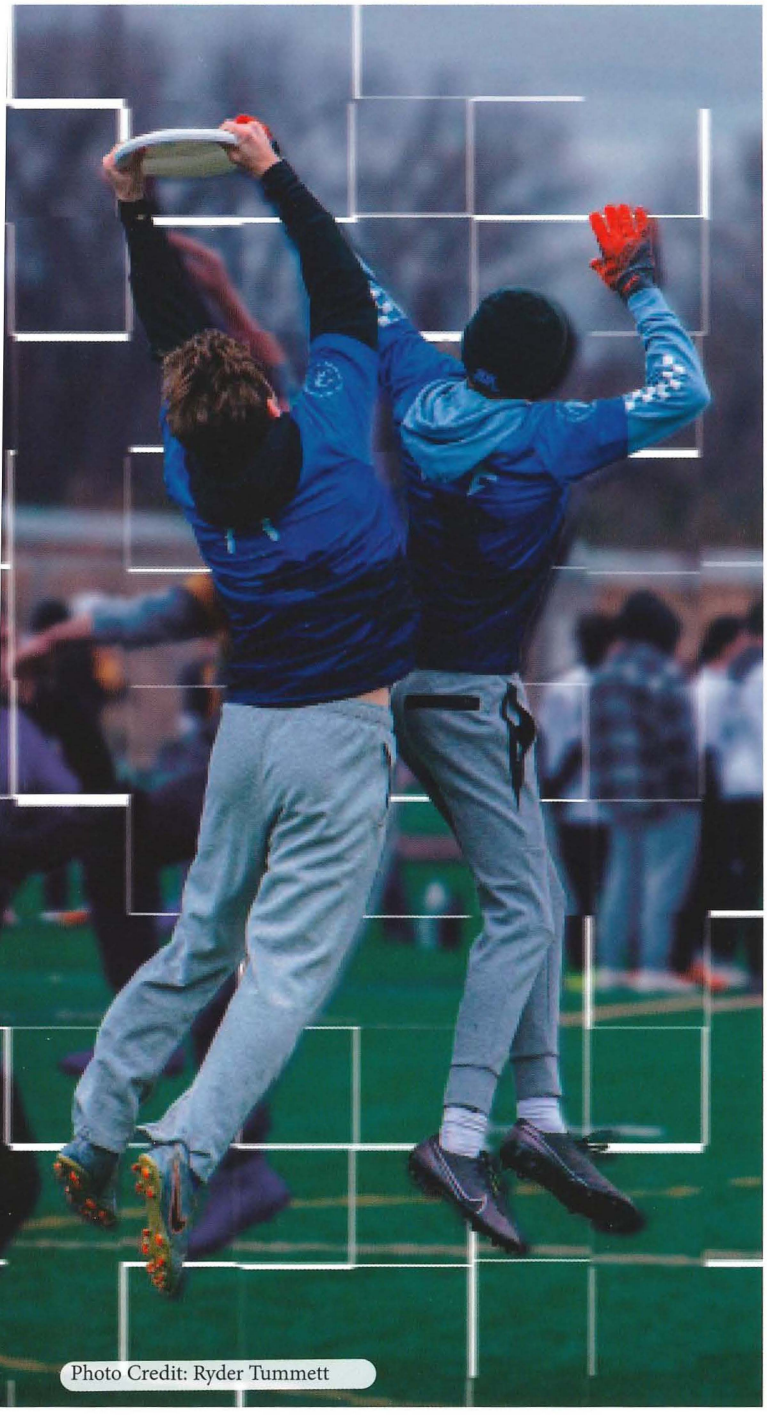


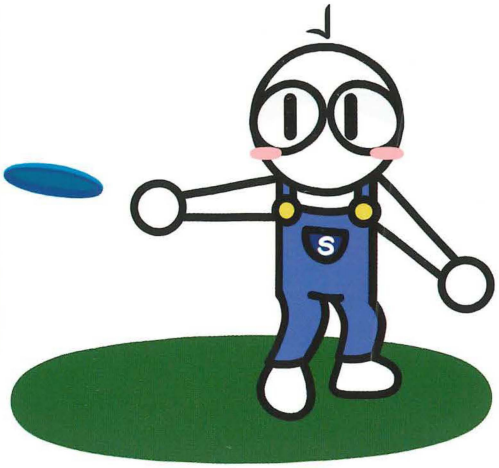
Photo Credit: Ryder Tummett

By: Ryder Tummett
October 27, 2025

Across country and state lines, many strange sports have cropped up due to environmental circumstances and cultural fascinations. From "3 Step" tracing its roots to ancient South American sports to sports like American football being reconfigured from European rugby in the 18th century, a plethora of sports exist out there for every person. One of the stranger sports out there is called Ultimate Frisbee. Though the name is very boisterous, it may be one of the simplest and most cost-effective sports a person could play. The sport, despite its name, has no "ultimate" aspects to it. It only requires 8 cones, one disk, and a friend who can semi-accurately guesstimate 100-120 yards. Though it is relatively small in popularity as a pastime, it is quickly becoming the go-to for off-season athletes to stay fit and active. This is because of both the simplicity and the general fun of it, especially for college students with schedules that consistently compound and overlap.

The rules of Ultimate are as follows: two teams of 7 play on a field 100-120 yards (depending on endzone length preference). The game plays very similar to football and lacrosse, as the goal is to catch the disc in the opponent's endzone, going until one team scores 15 points. On rare in-game occasions, if the allotted time runs out and the teams are in a tie, a final match point will be played, aptly named a universe point. The caveat of field movement is that once you catch the frisbee, you must slow to a stop after 3-5 steps or until momentum stops. This makes the sport require a decent amount of cognition, as players need to focus more on positioning than on

Photo Credit: Ryder Tummett



any other physical aspect to win. This format is exactly why it's so accessible and fun; It's easy to understand but very difficult to master. Most teams play spring and fall season games—spring counting towards nationwide standings and accolades—with a few day-long tournaments sprinkled in. For off-season sports players, nothing will keep conditioning high like that of a sport that requires only stamina and the ability to pinch fingers.

Henry M, who played all 4 years of high school and is now on a collegiate team, speaks on that availability as,

> *"Frisbee was a great balance because we would have hard and physical practices, but only 3 days a week giving me plenty of time to do other extracurricular [activities] and schoolwork."*

In college, education and a proper work-life balance reign as the two most important aspects to student success; a lax simplistic game like Ultimate is perfect for those wanting to be involved in more Orgs with little time on their hands.

Photo Credit: Ryder Tummett

For students interested, though under a different name, there is a team right here at UW-Stout. Yeti Ultimate is full of many tenacious players and officers with a passion for expanding the sport, who are very welcoming to new players. Joe Schaller, the current president of the team, describes his role saying, "I still love it just as much now as I did when I first joined. Being President of the Ultimate Frisbee club here at Stout adds so much to what I love most about the sport, the community. It's great to get to know all the newcomers and foster a great community with the team!" Community is one of the most valuable aspects of this sport, and Yeti takes that very seriously, fostering a fun and easygoing environment for any new players interested. Often, the most common way people get into the sport is through friends. Longtime player and current Yeti member Scott Thorkildson recalls that, "I joined frisbee because one [of] my friends said I should join my sophomore year of high school. It's become my main form of staying active and I enjoy it every day."

To find your niche in a college environment is difficult and hard to initiate, but teams like Yeti are welcoming and very easy to acclimate to. Not to mention, the team's capabilities are only growing post-2020, working up to more tournaments and games every year. Now is a great time to get involved and get in on the action. Practices are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and most often take place on the track infield by the Johnson Fieldhouse.

REBUILDING TRADITION:

Johnson Fieldhouse Set to Undergo Major Renovations

By: Brin Neumann
October 29, 2025

Photo Credit: UW Stout

Photo Credit: UW Stout

Johnson Fieldhouse, located on UW-Stout's Campus, is more than just the host for many of the university's athletic endeavors; it is a hotspot for community and campus involvement. From the time it was built in 1964, the building has undergone numerous renovations.

However, Recreation and Athletics Complex Facilities Manager Erik Johnson thinks some of the largest renovations will be happening soon. The Rec Complex Renovation Project includes adding a new fitness center near the west entrance, renovations to locker rooms, the conversion of the old athletic weight room to multi-use studios that can host yoga, relaxation classes, labs, and meetings, and updates to the building's mechanics, according to Johnson.

These renovations have been years in the making. The school has been talking about this project since the early 2000s, even when he was a student himself, says Johnson. With the contribution of a five-million-dollar donation, given from an alumnus to the renovation and building along the west entrance, Johnson has told that it is said to be the biggest gift in Stout history. This allowed plans to be made to create a community space, where the public, students, and athletes will have the ability to hang out and form a better entrance to the fieldhouse.

Not only is the fieldhouse getting a facelift, but many interior and safety updates are being made to the building as well. "Since our building is 60-plus years old for this original part, a lot of our major mechanicals are in desperate need to be replaced, things like fire, electrical, HVAC; a lot of those type(s) of things are all getting renovated and replaced. "We don't have cooling, air conditioning in a lot of areas, which is kind of unheard of," Johnson said. These needs will be addressed in the new renovations, he says.

The old pool area, located on the first and second levels of the fieldhouse within Johnson, will also be getting renovations. This includes additional locker rooms being added on the lower level, as well as an additional multipurpose gym that will host more pickleball courts on an added pool deck connected to the second floor. "Pickleball for us has been increasing in popularity in the community. They are playing 6 days a week in the Johnson Fieldhouse, and they will take more courts if we can provide them," Johnson says. "It's a good relationship for us to have those folks in the building and get a chance to see some of our students and meet some of our staff," he says.

UW Stout student Peyton Zipperer plays pickleball in her free time and is excited about the new renovations. "It's a great way to relax and destress after a long day of classes. I like hanging out with friends while being active," she says. Students and the public will get to enjoy these updates and extra space somewhere within the next few years, according to Johnson.

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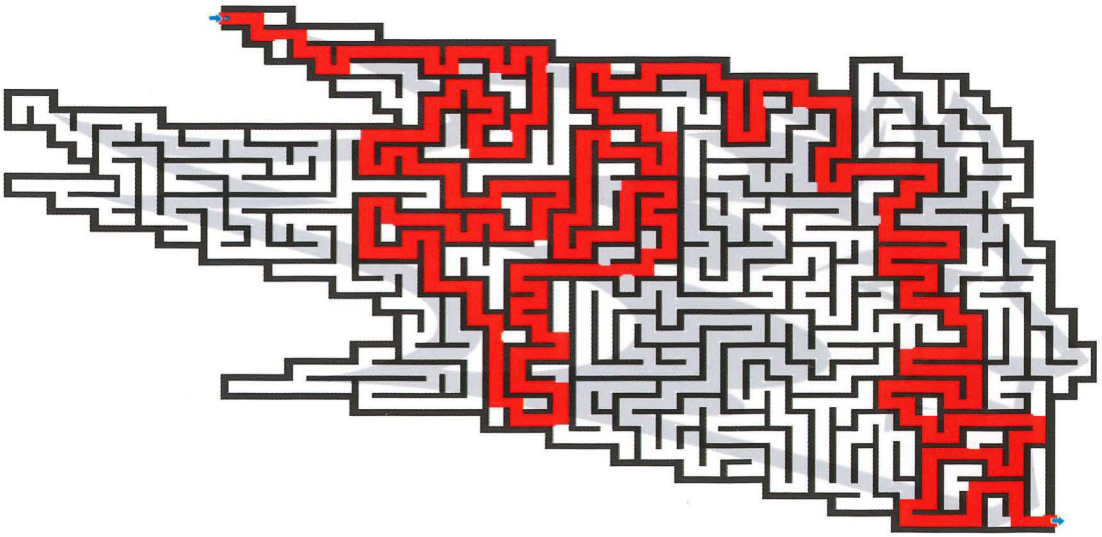

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